

January 22, 1986

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Mr. David E. Schenkman  
P. O. Box 366  
Bryantown, MD 20617

Dear David:

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Q. David Bowers. It should be self-explanatory.

I read your first couple of columns "World of Exonumia" in Coin World and am glad they are in the magazine as they are quite helpful to both collectors and in promoting exonumia in general.

It took a couple readings of the column for me to finally pick up on the name as it relates to the Polhemus gold counter-stamp. I now think you could answer more questions and give me more information than David could. I would appreciate any information, documents or evidence you may be able to furnish to me.

Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped envelope and if you should incur any small reasonable expense I would be willing to pay this to you.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely,

*Clive E. Blasing*  
Clive E. Blasing

P. O. Box 1  
Wales, Wi. 53183

November 15, 1985

Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Attn: Q. David Bowers

Dear Dave:

I was the purchaser of the 1857 S Polhemus \$20 Gold Counterstamp, Lot # 2804, in your Murray # Swope # Young # Van Ormer Public Auction Sale - September 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1985.

After reading your "terms of sale" I was impressed by Item # 33; especially where you "will do anything we can to make auction bidding by mail more enjoyable for you". Naturally, I had looked over the terms much earlier and have been buying or bidding "off and on" for many years. I used to see you at larger conventions in the Midwest in the early 60's.

I would ask your help and assistance in helping me trace or document the Polhemus coin pedigree as much as possible. First, if someone who was at the auction or the auctioneer could tell me how the bidding went, such as, "opened at x no. of dollars; went up to such and such a price in increments of x no. of dollars and was finally sold to my mail bid of \$10,000.00, plus buyer's fee." I have put together what I feel is the possible sequence of ownership and it is listed below:

1. Stamped by Polhemus and at some time enters general circulation.
2. Florida coin dealer discovers the piece in a selection of lower grade bulk gold in the mid 1970's.
3. Schenkman acquires coin.
4. Schenkman sells it to Byrne - now deceased - for \$15,000.00 at the Cincinnati ANA Convention as reported in Coin World article of 12-24-80.
5. Byrne sells it to Van Ormer.
6. Van Ormer consigns it to Bowers and Merena, Inc.
7. I buy it.

I would like to have any information you can supply on the coin, such as, who was the Florida coin dealer; how much did it cost Schenkman. The best thing I could have would be a copy of Byrne's check for \$15,000.00, if indeed he paid for it by check. (Perhaps you could furnish me Byrne's widow's address and I could write to her myself). Also, any documentation as to what Van Ormer paid for it.

I would sincerely and deeply appreciate any help or assistance you can furnish me in this matter.

If you should incur any expense beyond what you would do for a

client in researching this for me, I would be willing to pay a reasonable sum for it.

Thanking you in advance and hoping to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely,

Clive E. Blasing

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Wales, WI. 53183